Pension Scheme for Older Persons

383. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor plight of older persons in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to extend any pension scheme for their social and financial security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government through the Ministry of Rural Development is already implementing, since August, 1995, an old age pension scheme known as National Old Age Pension Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme. Under this scheme, a pension of Rs. 75/- per month is paid to destitute older persons. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment also commissioned in August, 1998, a project OASIS (an acronym for Old Age Social & Income Security) to examine policy questions connecting with old age income security in India. The Committee has submitted its final report to the Government on 11.1.2000. The report contains recommendations on the schemes and action that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into old age income security provision.

Reservation for Disabled in Private Sector

384. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to make it mandatory for the private sector to reserve 3 per cent vacancies for disabled persons;

(b) whether a bill in this regard is being introduced in the budget session of Parliament; and